

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Municipality of Kalavryta
PIC number:	890617141
Project name and acronym:	101091222 (Together we stand) CERV-LS

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	101091222		
Event name:	Together we stand		
Type:	Two-day event with workshops, forums, exhibitions, tours		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Greece, Kalavryta		
Date(s):	6-7 September 2023		
Website(s) (if any):	http://www.kalavrita.gr/component/k2/itemlist/category/313-ekdiloseis		
Participants			
Female:	182		
Male:	121		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [name]:	Greece		
From country 2 [name]:	Slovakia		
From country 3 [name]:	Albania		
...			
Total number of participants:	303	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The “Together we stand” project between the cities of Kalavryta (Greece) and Nemecka (Slovakia) aimed to unite the two cities in the organization of a two-day event where the knowledge of shared history and the cultural diversity were promoted. The activities of the that took place aimed to raise awareness among the citizens of the two cities of their common history, culture and values, improve their understanding of the EU, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance.</p>			

The exchanges that took place - in the form of bilateral meetings with the cities' official delegations, the tour visits, the youth forums, the art exhibitions, the visits to family homes, the workshops on EU history and policies –reinforced mutual understanding and tolerance and gave participants the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity. The activities encouraged EU citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation in shaping the future of the EU and fostered their feeling of belonging in the EU.

The cities of Kalavryta and Nemecka share similar stories and history, as both cities have experienced one of the cruelest massacres during World War II.

In Nemecká more than 900 people were executed and their bodies burned in a local lime kiln in an aim to suppress Slovak National Uprising. The killings took 7 days (January 4–11, 1945) and that kiln is known as "the 47th Auschwitz oven".

The Kalavryta massacre, or the Holocaust of Kalavryta, refers to the near-extinction of the male population and the total destruction of the town of Kalavryta, during World War II. In early December 1943, the German Army's 117th Jäger Division rounded up all residents of the town and separated the older boys and men from the women and children. After looting the town and setting it ablaze, all male citizens were executed - 438 in total.

The project aimed at reaching out to the citizens of both cities in order to build an active European citizenship and a common European identity in which democracy and peace is the center of the attention. The Mayors of both cities worked together on municipal core activities, democracy and good governance. Cooperation was expanded in the fields of culture and social and educational relations through exhibitions and workshops during the visit.

The younger generation were targeted with the scope to get re-engaged with the EU in order to create a more democratic Union, whereas women were given the opportunity to meet and discuss their roles then and now. The role of women following the massacre in Kalavryta and Nemecka was crucial in rebuilding their societies. In Kalavryta there is a memorial statue representing the woman pulling her husband's dead body to bury him. All mothers survived rebuilt the town and raised future generations, which is what kept the city alive.

The "Together we stand" project was a two-day event showcasing the cultures and the opportunities for cooperation between the cities of Kalavryta and Nemecka.

The Municipality of Kalavryta as the leading partner jointly organised with the city of Nemecka the following activities:

- Official meeting between the two cities at Kalavryta's Town Hall. At the meeting, the two cities presented their history, nature, culture, economy, education and development opportunities and discussed on their common history as well as on future common projects and local governance
- A guided tour to the cultural and historical landmarks of Kalavryta was organized for the guests. A visit took place in the historical primary school where women and men were separated from the male population in 1943. Visitors watched documentaries on the historical events that shaped the city of Kalavryta. A visit to the hill where men were executed was also part of the tour.
- A workshop on the cultural heritage of both cities took place, in which good practices and opportunities for cultural cooperation between the cities were discussed. The workshop focused on the role of women following the massacres during World War II. The workshop contained a presentation on local traditional costumes, a food tasting event as well as traditional dance presentation from Nemecka and a visit to the cultural heritage Cave of Lakes in Planitero village.
- A youth forum made young people aware on EU policies, in which interactively participated in EU history and policies. The forum was combined with a workshop on the structure and operational processes of the EU in order to discuss the future of Europe, whilst looking at the role that citizens, businesses, local institutions as well as local authorities can play in shaping it.
- An art exhibition took place in the cultural centre of Kalavryta where artists from the city of Nemecka exhibited their work and members of the delegation had a kiosk, presented items of their culture and tradition and had the opportunity to get in contact with local citizens
- Visits to family homes gave visitors the opportunity to feel the hospitality of Kalavryta's citizens and experiencing their culture and the way they live. Visitors had also the chance to visit a local museum focusing on folkore tradition
- The event closed with a ceremony commemorating the victims of the second world war, a concert from the local orchestra and a gift exchange between the cities.

The project introduced the importance of the common roots and shared histories as well as of the impact that the same historical events had on their citizens and how these can develop a joint partnership and cooperation between two cities with the same goals.

With the chosen activities the project aimed to introduce the EU and engage ordinary citizens, local organisations, business, women and young people in the debate of Europe.

The activities chosen drew attention to the historical events that have moved Europe over the last 30 years. Knowing history is a step towards a better understanding of the EU and the project aimed to give citizens the opportunity to get to know the EU, discuss current issues, and get involved in public affairs.

The project engaged 303 citizens. A special focus was given to students and young people as they are the main pillars of mid-term and long-term society. Then, it is essential to give the tools and knowledge to increase their ability to actively participate within global challenges debates, as young people are the ones that feel insecure, stressed, disengaged and pessimistic about the future of Europe.

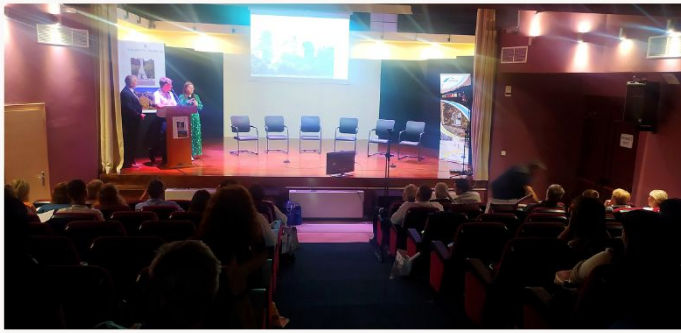
In general, the project aimed at specifying tailored messages to citizens of all ages and target groups with the aim of increase, in the short term, the knowledge and ability to understand current faced challenges and specifically to understand better the EU.

Following the successful two-day event that was held between the cities of Kalavryta and Nemecka, the coordinator city Kalavryta has approached another martyred city – the village of Oradour in France. The discussion on sharing ideas about local governance and the way the local governments can influence the future of Europe will continue with involving at least the city of Oradour, whereas joint projects on cultural heritage and art are sought to be developed. A visit to France is under discussion within the year of 2024.

Mayors' bilateral meeting



Presentation of Nemecka



NEMECKA PRESENTATION



Nemecka Traditional dance



Welcome dinner



Holocaust museum



Memorial place



Folklore museum visit

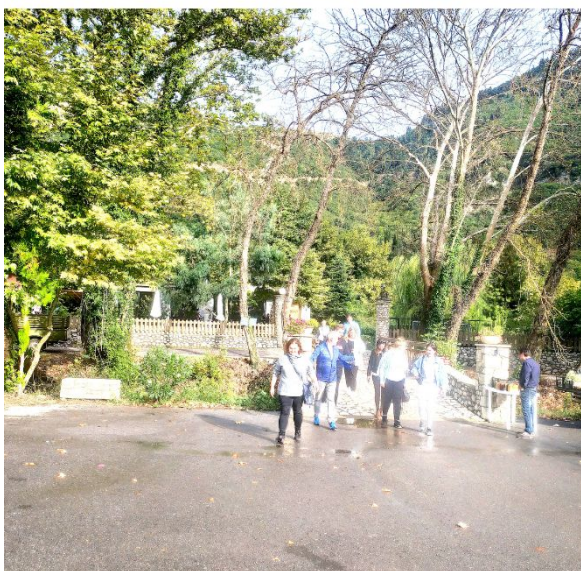
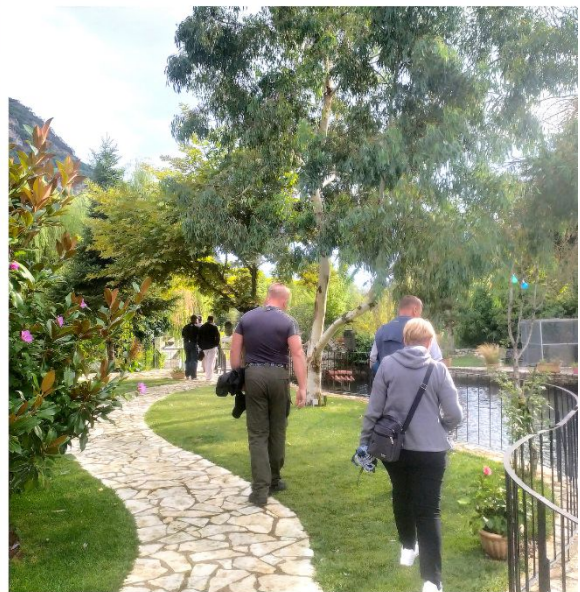




Cave of Lakes visit



Visit to Planitero Village



Youth Forum



YOUTH FORUM



Local Food event



Food Taste



Art Exhibition



ART EXHIBITION



Traditional house



Closing Ceremony



HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).